

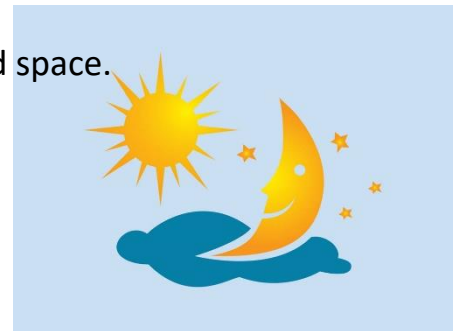
Sunday January 23rd 2022: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or other suitable time.



Hymn StF 83 H&P 13

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven / to his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven / who like thee his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him! / Praise him! Praise him! Praise the everlasting King.
Father-like, he tends and spares us / well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us / rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him! / Praise him! Praise him! Widely as his mercy flows.
Praise him for his grace and favour / to his people in distress;
praise him, still the same for ever / slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him! / Praise him! Praise him! Glorious in his faithfulness.
Angels in the height, adore him / ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him / dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him! / Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace! Henry Francis Lyte (1793 – 1847)



Prayer

Use the hymn above as a basis for a prayer saying thank-you.

Epistle reading set for today: 1 Corinthians 12 v 12 – 31a

To think about

Which part of the body would you be, do you think? And what gift or role have you been able to contribute to the church, community or society in your life? Is there anything different that you are being called to do in 2022?

Hymn StF 688

One is the body and one is the Head / one is the Spirit by whom we are led;
one God and Father, one faith and one call for all.

Gifts have been given well suited to each / some to be prophets, to pastor, or preach,
some, through the Gospel, to challenge, convert and teach.

Called to his service are women and men / so that his body might ever again
witness through worship, through deed and through word to Christ our Lord.

John L Bell (b 1949) CCL no. 5365402

Gospel reading set for today: Luke 4 v 14 – 21

Message from a Circuit friend

Week by week the scene is enacted in church or in our own homes. The Bible is opened and a passage is read. If it's well known, we may neglect to focus on each word and nuance of the meaning. In the gospel today, Jesus reads from the prophets, which the congregation knew well. On this occasion the words reveal a unique significance. In the synagogue, the action is very deliberately slowed down, so we can enter into the drama of the moment.

Jesus has come back to his childhood town, attends the synagogue on the Sabbath, and is asked to read. The tension builds, as 'he stood up' 'the scroll was given to him' 'he unrolled the scroll' 'found the place' and reads the passage. Then the scroll was rolled up and reverently

returned to its place. As the people watched, they could never have expected him to say, that, “today – in your hearing – this scripture has been fulfilled. The Spirit of the Lord is upon **me**.” The words of the ancient prophecy have come alive – stepped off the page – in the Word made flesh. Jesus revealed his identity and his mission, through the scriptures. The Word of God is still alive and active (Heb. 4:12) through us today if we will listen to the familiar words afresh, each time they are read. Over the holidays, we may have watched repeats on TV; Morecambe and Wise, The Good Life, or favourite films, where we predict the punch lines before they happen. But perhaps we need to listen to the Scriptures in a different way – not anticipating what we will hear, but prepared to be challenged. There is always something new that God wants us to hear and act upon, so that we can welcome everyone into God’s loving care in the name of Jesus.

Elsie Warby (Local Preacher and member of Watton Methodist Church)

Prayers of Intercession

Think of everything that has been in the news this week and turn the main items into prayer. Then pray for your community, your church, your neighbours, your family and your friends.

In the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, pray for Christians working together all over the world as well as for local ecumenical initiatives in your own locality. If you would like to look at the WPCU material for this year go to www.ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022 - the theme is ‘We have seen his star in the East’.

Offer to God your offertory for the week, and say the Lord’s Prayer...

Hymn StF 404 H&P 315

God’s spirit is in my heart; he has called me and set me apart.

This is what I have to do, what I have to do:

He sent me to give the good news to the poor,

tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,

tell blind people that they can see,

and set the down-trodden free,

and go tell everyone the news that the kingdom of God has come;

and go tell everyone the news that God’s kingdom has come.

Just as the Father sent me, so I’m sending you out to be my witness throughout the world – the whole of the world:

He sent me...

Don’t worry what you have to say; don’t worry because on that day

God’s spirit will speak in your heart – will speak in your heart:

He sent me...

V1 and refrain Alan T. Dale (1902 – 1979) v 2 + 4 Hubert Richards (b 1921) CCL no. 5365402



May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us, and all those we love, this day and always, Amen.

CIRCUIT NEWS

We had a good online session on Luke’s Gospel with both Rev Jacqui and Rev Rosemary providing the input. This can be watched on catch-up on our Circuit website www.centralnorfolkmethodistcircuit.org.uk.

We have also had a successful visit with Jonny (Jonathan) Bell who will be a Probationer Minister in the Holt section of our Circuit from September 1st. More information coming soon.

If anyone has missed a Covenant service so far this year and would like to watch a Methodist one on youtube, then the Watton Methodist Church website has a recording of last week’s live-streamed service led by Rev Jacqui and Deacon Jen. The short link to the youtube channel is: <http://bit.ly/WMC-live>,